IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

(Southern Division)

ALFONSO F. ELEJALDE 17316 Nugent Lane Dumfries, Virginia 22026

Civil Action No.

and

BERNARD J. JUNIOR COLES 13738 Mapledale Avenue Dale City, Virginia 22193

and

MAURIEL GRANT 13851 Meadowbrook Road Dale City, Virginia 22193

and

CARLOS ANTONIO CASTRO BLANCO 6022 Vista Drive Apt. 301 Falls Church, Virginia 22041

and

RAMON PINA RODRIGUEZ 6009 Vista Drive Apt. 301 Falls Church, Virginia 22041

and

RONNI ALEXIS MARTINEZ REYES 6040 Bellview Drive Falls Church, Virginia 22041

and

AVA M. GREGORY 3807 Laramie Place #1 Alexandria, Virginia 22309

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and

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and

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DAVID A. NEWELL 14122 Autumn Cir. Centerville, Virginia 20121

and

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and

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and

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and

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and

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and

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and

LARRY RONDELL HAWKINS 641 46th Street Apt. 21 Washinton, DC 20019

and

JESSE RONELL FIELDS 4901 Seminary Road Apt. 1523 Alexandria, Virginia 22311

and

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and

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JAMAR TURRELL DELONTA CAPER 2710 Eastside Drive Alexandria, Virginia 22306

and

CURTIS GREENE 1303 Queens Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314

and

RAMONE BEASLEY 248 57th Street NE Washington, DC 200019

and

DARRELL R. GREEN 2708 South Nelson Street Arlington, Virginia 22204

and

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and

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and

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DARYL CHRISTOPHER WILSON 4701 Michele Drive Landover, MD 20785

and

TACHENE A. DIGGS 13738 Mapledale Avenue Dale City, Virginia 22193

Plaintiffs,

V.

PERDOMO CONSTRUCTION AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES, LLC 600 Jefferson Plaza #308 Rockville, Maryland 20852

> Serve: Resident Agent Orlando Perdomo 3605 Old Vernon Court. Alexandria, Virginia 22309

and

ORLANDO PERDOMO 3605 Old Vernon Court Alexandria, Virginia 22309

and

BRANDON PARSONS 600 Jefferson Plaza #308 Rockville, Maryland 20852

Defendants.

COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs, Alfonso F. Elejalde, Bernard J. Junior Coles, Mauriel Grant, Carlos Antonio Castro Blanco, Ramon Pina Rodriguez, Ronni Alexis Martinez Reyes, Ava M. Gregory, Stanley L. Diggs, Shannon D. Edwards, Jr., David A. Newell, Norman E. Coleman, Everett A. Warren,

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Marcel P. Smith, DeSalles W. Nelson, Jonathan L. Green, Jose J. Martinez Graziano, David Colston, Jr., Franklin Rene Alvarez, Larry Rondell Hawkins, Jesse Ronell Fields, Robert Eric Hunt, Khamsay Syrapcanakoun, Jamar Turrell Delonta Caper, Curtis Greene, Ramone Beasley, Darrell R. Green, Ariel Escobar Torrico, Daryl Christopher Wilson, Derrick Adkins, Tachere A. Diggs ("Plaintiffs"), by and through their attorneys, Mary Craine Lombardo and Stein Sperling Bennett De Jong Driscoll PC, hereby file their Complaint against Defendants Perdomo Construction and Management Services, LLC, Orlando Perdomo and Brandon Parsons (collectively "Defendants"), for breach of contract action as well as under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. § 201, et seq. ("FLSA"), and the Virginia Minimum Wage Act ("VMWA") VA Code Ann. §40.1-28.8, et seq., stating as follows:

INTRODUCTION

Plaintiffs worked for Defendants as laborers. Defendants paid them below the wages required by the Davis Bacon Act. In addition, when the Plaintiffs were paid, they were paid at the same fixed rate for all hours worked. In fact, they often worked in excess of forty hours per week and were not paid at the overtime rate of one and a half times their wage as required by Virginia and federal law. Defendants have willfully violated the clear and well-established overtime provisions of the FLSA and the VMWA. Plaintiffs seek compensatory and statutory damages for all unpaid overtime compensation, as well as attorneys' fees and costs.

JURISDICTION & VENUE

- 1. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the causes of action alleged in this Complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1367, and 29 U.S.C. § 216.
 - 2. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391.

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PARTIES

- 3. Plaintiffs Alfonso F. Elejalde, Bernard J. Junior Coles, Mauriel Grant, Carlos Antonio Castro Blanco, Ramon Pina Rodriguez, Ronni Alexis Martinez Reyes, Ava M. Gregory, Stanley L. Diggs, Shannon D. Edwards, Jr., David A. Newell, Norman E. Coleman, Everett A. Warren, Marcel P. Smith, DeSalles W. Nelson, Jonathan L. Green, Jose J. Martinez Graziano, David Colston, Jr., Franklin Rene Alvarez, Jesse Ronell Fields, Robert Eric Hunt, Khamsay Syrapcanakoun, Jamar Turrell Delonta Caper, Curtis Greene, Darrell R. Green, Ariel Escobar Torrico and Tachere A. Diggs are adult residents of Virginia.
- 4. Plaintiffs Larry Rondell Hawkins and Ramone Beasly are adult residents of the District of Columbia.
- 5. Plaintiffs Derrick Adkins and Daryl Christopher Wilson are adult residents of Maryland.
- 6. Defendant Perdomo Construction and Management Services, LLC ("Perdomo Construction") is a Maryland corporation.
- 7. Defendant Orlando Perdomo is a resident of Virginia and is the CEO of Perdomo Construction.
- 8. Upon information and belief, Defendant Brandon Parsons is a resident of Maryland and is the Vice President of Perdomo Construction.
- 9. Orlando Perdomo and Brandon Parsons are hereinafter referred to as the "Individual Defendants."
- 10. At all times material herein, Defendants, in the aggregate and as a single enterprise, had annual gross volume of sales made or business done in an amount exceeding \$500,000.

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- 11. Each Defendant is an "employer" within the meaning of the FLSA and the VMWA.
- 12. Defendants have at least two or more employees who are engaged in commerce, handle, sell or otherwise work on goods or materials that have moved in or were produced for commerce. Defendants negotiate and purchase from producers and suppliers who operate in interstate commerce and serve customers in interstate commerce.
- 13. At all times relevant, Defendants constituted an "enterprise" within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 203(r).
- 14. The Individual Defendants controlled the day to day operations of Perdomo Construction.
- 15. The Individual Defendants had the power to hire, fire, suspend, and discipline Plaintiffs.
 - 16. The Individual Defendants supervised Plaintiffs directly or indirectly.
- 17. The Individual Defendants directly or indirectly set and controlled Plaintiffs' work schedules or had the power to do so.
- 18. The Individual Defendants directly or indirectly set and determined the rate and method of Plaintiffs' pay or had the power to do so.
- 19. The Maryland Court of Appeals made clear that individual employers are liable under the FLSA if the employer meets the economic reality test for "control." *Campusano v. Lusitano Const. LLC*, 208 Md. App. 29, 36-40 (2012).
- 20. The Individual Defendants would be considered an employer for purposes of individual liability because of their intrinsic involvement in the business.

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FACTS

- 21. Plaintiffs were employed by Defendants as laborers from March 2014 through July 2014 (the "Employment Period").
- 22. Perdomo Construction entered into a Subcontractor Agreement with James G. Davis Construction Corporation ("Davis Construction") to assist in the demolition of parts of the FDIC building in Virginia.
- 23. Upon information and belief, Davis Construction's contract with the Federal Government required Perdomo Construction to pay laborers in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act, including the Act's prevailing wage requirement.
- 24. Plaintiffs were paid some payments when they began work, below what was required in the contract, and then Defendants failed to make any more payments to the Plaintiffs for the remainder of their work.
 - 25. Plaintiffs are owed approximately \$190,320 in straight time and overtime wages.
- 26. Plaintiffs are owed approximately \$50,000 in minimum and overtime wages under the FLSA and the VMWA.
- 27. Plaintiffs are owed overtime wages that Defendants willfully failed and refused to pay to Plaintiffs in violation of Virginia and federal law.
- 28. The precise number of hours worked, and wages owed, should be revealed through discovery.
- 29. By statute, Defendants are required to maintain records which document the wages, hours and other conditions of employment. 29 U.S.C. §211.
- 30. Defendants knowingly and intentionally violated Plaintiffs' rights under Virginia and federal law.

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COUNT I (Breach of Contract)

- 31. Plaintiffs adopt herein by reference paragraphs 1 through 30 above as if fully set forth herein.
- 32. The contract between Davis Construction and Perdomo Construction is governed by 40 U.S.C. §3142 because it applies to "every contract in excess of \$2,000, to which the Federal Government ... is a party, for construction, alteration, or repair ... of public buildings and public works of the Government ... that are located in a State or the District of Columbia and which requires or involves various classes of laborers and mechanics." *Id.* at §3142(a).
- 33. The statute further provides that "minimum wages shall be based on the wages the Secretary of Labor determines to be prevailing for the corresponding classes of laborers and mechanics employed on projects of a character similar to the contract work in the civil subdivisions of the State in which the work is to be performed, or in the District of Columbia if the work is to be performed there." *Id.* at §3142(b).
- 34. The statute also provides that "[n]o contract shall be awarded to persons appearing on the list or to any firm, corporation, partnership, or association in which the persons have an interest until three years have elapsed from the date of publication of the [list of employers who have disregarded their obligations under the Act]." *Id.* at §3144(b)(2).
- 35. At all relevant times, Plaintiffs were "laborers" within the scope of 40 U.S.C. §3142.
- 36. Upon information and belief, the prevailing wage as determined by the Sectary of Labor under this contract was \$15.86 per hour for the laborers.
- 37. While employed by Defendants, Plaintiffs worked and were not compensated their straight time or their overtime wages in accordance with the contract.

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38. Unpaid straight time and overtime wages are due and owing to Plaintiffs by Defendants.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request this Honorable Court to enter judgment against Perdomo Construction and Management Services, LLC, in favor of Plaintiffs in an amount to be determined at trial, but not less than \$190,320.00, which is the approximate amount of wages owed; and to grant to Plaintiffs such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

COUNT II (FLSA)

- 39. Plaintiffs adopt herein by reference paragraphs 1 through 30 above as if fully set forth herein.
- 40. Defendants were required to pay Plaintiffs compensation at a minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour. *See* 29 U.S.C. §206(a)(1)(c).
- 41. Defendants were required to pay Plaintiffs compensation at the rate of one and a half times their regular hourly rate for all hours worked in excess of forty hours per week. *See* 29 U.S.C. § 207(a)(2).
- 42. For the majority of the Employment Period, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs any wages and therefore committed a clear violation of the minimum wage requirements.
- 43. Throughout the Employment Period, Defendants also failed to compensate Plaintiffs at the rate of one and a half times the minimum hourly wage for all hours worked in excess of forty hours per week.
- 44. Defendants' actions complained of herein constitute a willful violation of Sections 206 and 207 of the FLSA.

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45. Defendants' violation makes them liable to Plaintiffs for all unpaid wages and unpaid overtime compensation, and an additional equal amount as liquidated damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully requests that this Honorable Court enter judgment against Defendants, jointly and severally, in their favor in an amount to be determined at trial, but not less than \$100,000, which is two times the total wages and overtime compensation owed, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, and such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

COUNT III (Virginia Minimum Wage Act)

- 46. Plaintiffs adopt herein by reference paragraphs 1 through 30 above as if fully set forth herein.
- 47. Defendants were required to pay Plaintiffs the required minimum wage as prescribed by the Fair Labor Standards Act, currently \$7.25 per hour. *See* VA Code Ann. §40.1-28.10.
- 48. For the majority of the Employment Period, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs any wages and therefore committed a clear violation of the minimum wage requirements.
 - 49. Unpaid wages are due and owing to Plaintiffs by Defendants.
- 50. Defendants' failure and refusal to comply with their obligations under the VMWA was willful and not in good faith.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully requests that this Honorable Court enter judgment against Defendants, jointly and severally, and in favor of Plaintiffs in an amount to be determined at trial, but not less than \$50,000.00 and to grant to Plaintiffs their reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, and such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

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Respectfully submitted,

STEIN SPERLING BENNETT DE JONG DRISCOLL PC

By: /s/ Mary Craine Lombardo

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